

Air Force Reserve Band tours the area

Armed with instruments and electronic equipment, musicians from the Band of the Air Force Reserve are targeting the Ark-La-Tex with an all out blitz of jazz, brass, Dixie, woodwind, rock music and more this month.

The 45-member concert band, and its seven distinct ensembles, will conduct a variety of musical performances targeting key military and community audiences. They will perform at more than 25 locations, including the Strand Theater, the Jazz and Gumbo Festival and local high schools, May 10 –15.

Comprised of active-duty musicians, the Band is assigned to Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command at Robins AFB, Ga. The performances are the result of a "Strike Package" initiative created by the band's corporate board to more effectively use the band for recruiting, retention and community relations. The initiative allows the band to target a community or region, maximizing the number of performances presented to the public.

A public concert will be held at 7 p.m. May 10 at the Strand Theater in downtown Shreveport. Reservists are encouraged to



USAF COURTESY PHOTO

Air Force Reserve Command Dixie Express Band.

invite their employers, family and friends to this event. The event, as well as all other performances, is free. Other public perfor-

mances, involving the combo's Dixie Land, Jazz, Rock, and Bagpipe bands, will be held during the band's five-day blitz.

Air Force Reserve Command Band Strike Package Schedule

Wednesday, May 10

7 p.m. – Strand Theater - **Concert Band**
(Free tickets are available in the Public Affairs office)

Thursday, May 11

8:15 & 9:15 a.m. – Airline High School, Bossier City - **Dixie Express**
8:45 a.m. – Northwood High School, Shreveport - **Reserve Generation**
9:30 a.m. – Carroll High School, Monroe - **Jazz Ensemble**
2 p.m. – Southpark Mall, Shreveport - **Bagpipe Band**
5:30 p.m. – Shreveport Captains - **High Flight** (popular music combo)
7 p.m. – First United Methodist Church, Shreveport - **Brass Quintet and Woodwind Quintet**

Friday, May 12

10 a.m. – Shriner's Children's Hospital, Shreveport - **Bagpipe Band**
11:30 a.m. – Purple Heart Luncheon, Hoban Hall - **High Flight**
Noon and 9:30 p.m. – Jazz and Gumbo Festival, Festival Plaza, Shreveport - **Jazz Ensemble** (will also be webcast live at www.jazzandgumbo.com)
12:30 p.m. – Southwood High School, Shreveport - **Reserve Generation**
1:30 p.m. – Jazz and Gumbo Festival - **Jazz Ensemble High School Band Clinic**
4:30 p.m. – Jazz and Gumbo Festival - **Brass Quintet**
7 p.m. – Jazz and Gumbo Festival - **Dixie Express**

Saturday, May 13

8 a.m. – Relay for Life, Texarkana Fairgrounds - **Dixie Express**
3 p.m. – Central Mall, Texarkana - **Bagpipes**
4 p.m. – Jazz and Gumbo Festival - **Reserve Generation**
7 p.m. – Centenary College, Shreveport - **Brass Quintet and Woodwind Quintet**
7:30 p.m. – Harleton High School, Harleton, Texas - **Jazz Ensemble**

Sunday, May 14

10 a.m. – Sci-port Discovery Center, Shreveport - **Woodwind Quintet**
1 p.m. – Base Exchange - **Brass Quintet**
2 p.m. – VA Medical Center - **Bagpipe Band**
3 p.m. – Living Oaks Retirement Center, Shreveport - **Dixie Express**
3 p.m. – Rose Center, - **Woodwind Quintet**

A message from the Wing Commander

Gator Gazette

917th Wing
Office of Public Affairs
1000 Davis Avenue E
Bldg. 6803, Rm. 229
Barksdale AFB, LA 71110
Vol. 7 No. 5
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UTA Sunday at noon is the deadline for submitting articles to public affairs for publication in the following month's issue of the *Gator Gazette*.

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Inputs for the *Gator Gazette* can also be made through e-mail to 917wg.pa@barksdale.af.mil



Lots of things are happening during May. We start off the month with our Wing family day. This is a great opportunity to get our extended 917th family together at Barksdale, as we continue to educate them on our mission and have a fun day at the same time. Take the time to show them where you work, explain what you do, and how you contribute to the Wing mission. Our families are such a critical part of our success, and we must continually express our gratitude and appreciation for their sacrifices.

Next up during the month, we are very fortunate to have the Air Force Reserve Band coming to town. The full band will be performing at the Strand Theater on May 10, followed by smaller groups doing engagements over the next four days at shopping malls, schools and festivals. Please come enjoy the great music and help us show the Air Force Reserve flag.

Then we roll into Armed Forces Week, May 13-21. This gives us a special opportunity to demonstrate the unity and common purpose of the Armed Forces in meeting our national security requirements. This year's celebration marks the 50th anniversary of Armed Forces Day. This year's theme is "Saluting America's Best" and all military personnel are encouraged to wear their uniforms when attending or participating in Armed Forces Week activities and events.

Finally, May 29 is Memorial Day when we pay tribute to the Americans who have given their lives in past conflicts so that we may

Chaplain's Corner: Families

By Chaplain (Maj.) Bill Willis, Sr.

This UTA we get to enjoy all our Family Day Activities. It may raise the question of just what we mean when we say family. There seems to be an almost infinite variety of families today. The old standard of father, mother, two kids and a dog seems to have disappeared. I would suggest a broader definition of family for us: those significant people who both give and receive meaning in our lives.

Although biology determines our first family, the most important family is often made up of the people we choose and those who choose us. We may think of our Air Force Reserve unit as our family because we have chosen this way to serve our country and we have been chosen by the Air Force to serve. Ours is a proud family with a proud tradition.



PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. JESSICA D'AURIZIO

Brig. Gen. Jack Ihle has one of his stars pinned on by his wife Donna during a April 8 ceremony, at the Barksdale Officers Club.

continue to enjoy our many freedoms. We must never forget the sacrifices made by these brave men and women.

In summary, what a great month. We have the opportunity to thank our families for their support, show our support to our local communities with the AFRC Band, salute our Armed Forces, and remember our American heroes who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

For many of us, our Air Force family helps give meaning to our lives just as we contribute to the meaning of other Air Force members.

But there is an even more important family in our lives. Those who choose God and who are chosen by God are members of the ultimate family. This family also has a proud tradition and gives ultimate meaning to life. Members of this family help contribute meaning to all other members of God's family.

As we celebrate Family Day this UTA, let's give some thought and thanks for all our families.

"For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession."
(Deuteronomy 7:6 NIV)

Mandatory training on homosexual policy

The Air Force Chief of Staff has re-emphasized the homosexual policy of the the Air Force along with training requirements to implement the policy.

Commanders, judge advocates and investigators must be briefed on the policy by July 1, 2000. Supervisors (anyone who writes an officer or enlisted performance rating) are required to receive a general briefing within 60 days of becoming a supervisor. Annual refresher training will also be required.

Training is scheduled for all commanders and first sergeants for May 7 at 2 p.m. in the wing auditorium. The remaining supervisors are scheduled for briefings on June 4 at either 8 or 9 a.m., or noon or 1 p.m. Also, for those who perform the alternate UTA, training is scheduled for June 10 at 9 or 10 a.m.

If you have any questions, contact Maj. Garth Terry at 456-8144.

Cinco de Mayo Fiesta celebrates Hispanic cultures

The Cinco de Mayo Fiesta 2000, a celebration of Hispanic cultures, is scheduled for May 5-6, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. each day.

The activities are in downtown Shreveport at the Festival Plaza.

The festival will include a variety of foods from area restaurants and organizations, Hispanic artifacts, and live entertainment from regional Latin bands.

A variety of children's activities, an authentic Hispanic cooking contest, a Chihuahua dog race, and a Hispanic beauty pageant will also be included.

For more information, contact Master Sgt. Jorge Feliciano at 456-9488.

917th participates in Holiday in Dixie



Haughton High School ROTC cadet B.J. Smith greets airshow enthusiasts while dressed as the Air Force Reserve Recruiter mascot.



PHOTOS BY SENIOR AIRMAN SHANNON COLLINS
Master Sgt. Stacy Bauer, 47th Fighter Squadron crew chief, shows Doug McCaw from Canada a 30mm round used in the A-10 Warthog's Gatlin gun.



Capt. Marc Olsen, 47th Fighter Squadron pilot, shows members of the community the 30mm caliber machine gun on the A-10 Warthog during the Holiday in Dixie airshow.

Education incentives target recruiting, retention

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. - In an effort to stimulate recruiting and retention, Air Force Reserve Command plans to offer two new education incentive programs to unit program reservists and individual mobilization augmentees.

The programs are the Montgomery G.I. Bill-Selected Reserve "Kicker" program and a full tuition assistance program. Implementation depends on the availability of FY 2000 funding.

To qualify for the MGIB-SR Kicker benefit, a reservist must:

- * Commit to a 6-year enlistment in a critical Air Force specialty code identified by the Office of Air Force Reserve;
- * Be drawing the MGIB-SR basic benefit;
- * Be participating in the Selected Reserve;
- * Have completed initial active-duty training;
- * Have a high school diploma or equivalent; and
- * Be enrolled in an approved institution.

In addition to the MGIB-SR basic benefit, Kicker recipients get \$350 per month up to a maximum of 36 months for students enrolled full-time. Other reserve components have similar programs.

The Air Force Reserve Tuition Assistance Incentive Program expands the existing Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education tuition assistance program.

The new program offers tuition assistance across the board to all eligible reservists seeking education up to a bachelor's degree. Tuition assistance is payable for up to 75 percent of tuition costs not to exceed \$187 per semester hour, up to a maximum incentive of \$2,500 per year. The new program raises the annual cap from \$1,500. Command training officials say they will announce eligibility requirements and program features at a later date. (AFRC News Service)



Senior Airman Tom McCracken, Det. 1, 307th RED HORSE, detains, retired Gunnery, Sgt. Kerry McCutchen and Army Staff Sgt. Chris Howell on the airfield during a field exercise at the East Reservation.

Air Force and Navy take to the field

Story and photos by Senior Airman Shannon Collins
Wing Public Affairs

Barksdale airmen and sailors took to the field here for their first joint exercise March 3-5.

At the base's Warrior Training Center, the 160 airmen from Det. 1, 307th RED HORSE squadron and the 230 sailors from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 28 and throughout the country updated their training while learning to work with each other.

"It was an adventure for an Air Force unit and a Navy unit to be working side by side," said Tech. Sgt. Cathy Yelkin, Det. 1, 307th RED HORSE. "It is a learning process just to see how the two services come together and work together."

"We learned a whole lot about how they operate, learned a little bit about their different terminology and how they refer to things as well as how they actually do business," said Maj. Elfin Rozyskie, Det. 1, 307th RED HORSE.

"This is the first time we've trained in a bivouac situation with RED HORSE," said Navy Lt. Cmdr. Robert Priore, NMCB 28. "Working with each other was an eye opening experience. They essentially perform the same function and the same scenarios we do."

Throughout the three-day exercise, the airmen and sailors trained on chemical and biological warfare; self-aid, buddy care; convoying; patrolling; and communications. A 17-member evaluation team from 10th Air Force observed the exercise and offered suggestions to the commanders.

"We're not here to inspect this exercise," said Lt. Col. Roger Barr, 10th Security Forces Squadron. "We're here to help execute the exercise. Our objective is to help the commander meet his goals. We are here to improve the system that will help the units exercise, train and be readiness qualified, so they can be deployed in a moment's notice."

The teams met a few challenges.

"The rain made things wet and messy, but we overcame it," said Yelkin.

"We had to move as many people as we could get into Barksdale



Tech. Sgt. Cathy Yelkin, Det. 1, 307th RED HORSE, covers a chemical blister with a compression bandage for Master Sgt. Edwin Rushing, 307th RED HORSE, on the east reservation while training with the Navy in a joint bivouac exercise.

from our normal headquarters area," said Priore. "We had 160 M-16s, four M-60 machine guns and a M-2 .50 caliber machine gun to clean before 9 a.m. Sunday morning."

"This was probably as close to a real deployment as these people have been in a long time," said Barr. "We were working with another service, which is what we will do when we go somewhere else. I'd like to see more of these exercises where they can get some hands-on experience about what it's like to have to mix and match and mesh with other agencies, pull off an exercise like this and walk away with all kinds of experience. Everytime we can expose people to one more opportunity to train... it just strengthens them."

"Indirectly and directly, they've helped us a great deal, and I hope we have helped them. I welcome more interaction with the Air Force," said Petty Officer 3rd Class Rory Sutton, NMBC-28.

"It's absolutely essential in today's environment," said Rozyskie. "If you arrive cold overseas, never having worked with another service, there is just a host of coordination things that happen that you're not aware of, and that's not the time to learn. The lessons we learned are invaluable. I've been in the unit for 16 years, and I've had a lot of these things executed, but this just added something that was a real challenge. It was something applicable to the way we do business today."

Family Day Schedule

The 917th Wing's annual Family Day is scheduled for May 6 and, as in the past, will include activities for the young and young at heart. For more information on Family Day, call Tech. Sgt. Diana Gross at 456-9066, on the 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament, call Master Sgt. Anthony Whitaker at 456-9108, and on the Commander's Cup Golf Tournament, call Master Sgt. Jessica D'Aurizio at 456-9181.

<u>Time</u>	<u>Activity/Event</u>
Cullen Park Family Day	
Noon	Welcome remarks (Brig. Gen. Jack Ihle) Invocation
Noon - 4 p.m.	Free sodas and water available
	First aid station run by the 917 th Medical Squadron
Noon - 2:30 p.m.	Music by Copperhead Band
	Beer Booth (\$1 for a 14 ounce cup)
	Food Lines Open
12:05 - 3 p.m.	Dunking Booth (Dunk Wing leadership; 3 balls for \$1)
	Putt Putt Golf (2 balls for \$1)
	Softball, volleyball and horseshoes
	Chemical warfare display
12:30 - 2:30 p.m.	Volksmarch
12:30 - 3:30 p.m.	Cake Walk (\$1)
	Bingo
	Jail House
12:30 - 4 p.m.	Space Walk (Free)
1 - 3 p.m.	Kiddie Train (Free)
	Coloring (Free)
	Face Painting (Free)
1:30 p.m.	Fire Prevention demonstration McGruff the Crime Dog
	DARE demonstration
1:30 - 2:30 p.m.	Martial Arts demonstrations
2 - 3:30 p.m.	Fishing Game (Free)
2 - 4 p.m.	Karakoe by Gary Batchelor
2:30 - 3:20 p.m.	Water Balloon Toss (times determined by age)
3 - 3:30 p.m.	Working Dog demonstration

3 on 3 Basketball Tournament

- 1:45 p.m. Check-in
 2 p.m. Games begin
 5:30 p.m. Awarding of trophies



Commander's Cup Golf Tournament

- 1:30 p.m. Check-in
 2:00 p.m. Tee off
 6:00 p.m. Dinner
 6:30 p.m. Awarding of prizes and trophies



Voices: What is the "something special" your mother did just for you?



Maj. Dag Perkins
93rd Bomb Squadron

"My mother instilled the love of music which contributed to my civilian job. I'm the Arts pastor at my church."



Master Sgt. Dale Earley
917th Logistic Squadron

"We were supposed to make it special for her on Mother's Day, but she always made it special for us by preparing a big meal."



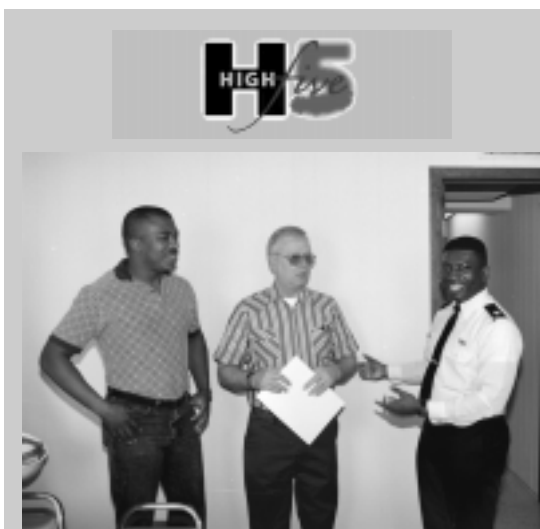
Tech. Sgt. Aunshelle White
917th Medical Squadron

"I remember my mom sitting down and cutting out paper dolls. It was something special she did just with me."



Tech. Sgt. Lonell Kirkham
47th Fighter Squadron

"The thing I remember that my mom did for me was to let me drive her car. That was special to me."



Tech. Sgt. Elvin Jacobs, 917th Maintenance Squadron, stands by his civilian supervisor Mr. David Belt, Unit Structures Stystem, Inc, Magnolia, Ark., as Maj. Anthony Baity presents him with a "My Boss is a Patriot" award.



Tech. Sgt. Reva Rials, 917th Operations Support, won the AFRC Outstanding Operations Resource Management NCO of the Year for 1999.

Newcomers

93rd Bomb Squadron

Senior Airman Charles Davis III, Bossier City, La.
Senior Airman Chris Graham, Nacogdoches, Texas
Senior Airman Jerome Ware, Midwest City, Okla.
Airman First Class Elizabeth Jones, Germantown, Tenn.

917th Maintenance Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Lori Elfering, Mesquite, Texas
Staff Sgt. Steven Price, Haughton, La.
Staff Sgt. William Bridges, Shreveport, La.

917th Security Forces Squadron

Airman First Class Jessica Sanchez, St. Cloud, Fla.
Airman First Class Samantha Mitchell, Hooks Texas

917th Medical Support Squadron

Capt. Patrick Krake, Shreveport, La.
Staff Sgt. Dennis Mahoney, Shreveport, La.
Staff Sgt. Robert Salter, Shreveport, La.
Staff Sgt. Shelley Griffin, Shreveport, La.
Senior Airman Demetra Brooks, Shreveport, La.
Senior Airman Melissa Radecki, Bossier City, La.

307th RED HORSE Squadron

Tech. Sgt. George Caldwell Jr., Stonewall, La.

917th Civil Engineer Squadron

Senior Airman Bobby Giddens, Dekalb, Texas
Senior Airman Roy Stockinger Jr., Mesquite, Texas

917th Logistics Support Squadron

Staff Sgt. William Rowles III, Monroe, La.
Senior Airman Harry Grissom, Cotton Valley, La.
Senior Airman Christopher Lord, Marshall, Texas
Senior Airman Gabriel Peterson, Pearl River, La.

917th Mission Support Squadron

Airman First Class Tyosha Johnson, Marion, La.

917th Operations Support Flight

Capt. Barry Jones, New Orleans, La.

917th Communication Squadron

Staff Sgt. Brian Webb, Barksdale AFB, La.

Promotions

Senior Master Sergeant

David Ramirez John Tomasek

Master Sergeant

Robert Ahbol Kenneth Lockhart
Larry Borden Joseph Lepine
Robert Luman Dennis Moore
Charles Shaw Philip Weber

Technical Sergeant

Kevin Beck Andrew Branning
Eric Brown Jeffrey Butler
Todd Cummings Wray Williams
Thomas Foster Ronald Harsen
Sonjia Ivy Bruce Jester
Johnny Morrison David Smith
Revonda Rials James Spencer

Ray Tippet

Bobby Deshotel

Staff Sergeant

Marcus Brooks
Todd Cook
Demetrius Wallace

Senior Airman

Kevin Powell

Airman 1st Class

Latoya Marshall Layonda Millsap

Airman

Damien Allen
Lakenia Gibson
Latrina Roy

Wray Williams

Kutana Brown

April Irby

Sandra Schuster

Nicholas Gaines
Shaletha Hall
David Walker

917th Wing Training Schedule

May UTA 6-7

Time	Event	Location
Saturday		
0600	UTA prayer breakfast	Red River Inn Dining
0630-0700	Sign in	Assigned unit
0700	Wing staff meeting	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105
0700-0830	Intro -- all newcomers	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
0730	Long & Short fly physicals	Flight surgeon office
0730-1030	Immunizations	Base hospital
0800	Physicals (non-fly)	Base hospital foyer
0800	Chem. Warfare Refresher	Hanger 7
0900-1000	Yellow fever shots	Base hospital
0900	Anti-terrorism training	Bldg. 6803, Rm 227
0900	OJT meeting	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105
0930, 1030 & 1330	Family readiness briefing	Bldg. 4713, Rm. 17
1000	First sergeants meeting	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105
1300	Honor guard training	Bldg. 7268
1550-1615	Sign-out 1550 -- CES, MSS, WG 1600 -- LG 1610 -- MS	
Sunday		
0630-0700	Sign in	Assigned Unit
0800	Chief's meeting	Bldg. 6803, Rm 105
0800	Human Relations	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
0800	Initial Chem. Warfare	Hanger 7
0800-1200	EO 2000	Bldg. 4714, 3rd Floor
0900	Substance Abuse	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
0900	Unit advisory council	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105
0900	Catholic Mass	Base Chapel 2
0900-1200	Intermediate Excel	STARBASE
1015-1100	Protestant services	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
1030	Family readiness briefing	Bldg. 4713, Rm. 17
1230	EOC testing	Bldg. 4314, 3rd floor
1300	Eyeglass inserts	Bldg. 4845 (by hospital)
1300	Flightline drivers training	Bldg. 6825, Rm. 243
1400	Homosexual policy training	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
1430	SORTS meeting	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105
1515	47th FS commander's call	Bldg. 6803, Rm 227
1550-1615	Sign-out 1550 -- CES, MSS, WG 1600 -- LG 1610 -- MS	

917th Wing Family Readiness Town Meeting
Saturday, May 6, 10 a.m. in the Wing auditorium
Meeting open to all spouses and family members of
Air Force Reservist

Know anyone who is looking for a recruiter?

Barksdale AFB, La.

Master Sgt. Larry Giles
Master Sgt. Joe Menna
1-800-241-4071

Shreveport, La.

Tech. Sgt. Don Copeland
318-683-0331

Little Rock AFB, Ark.

Master Sgt. Kris Jaso
501-987-7188

Texarkana, Texas

Staff Sgt. TeNeuss Land
903-223-7030

Mesquite/Tyler, Texas

Staff Sgt. Brian Mobely
972-681-6384/903-534-8618

Monroe, La.

Master Sgt. James Headrick
318-323-1898

SERVICES

917th Military Personnel Flight

Bldg. 6803, Room 140, ext. 9205

Saturday

7 - 11 a.m. - Newcomers in-processing.
11 a.m. - 4 p.m. - All customer service functions (open during lunch)

Sunday

7 - 8 a.m. - Closed for training.
8 a.m. - 2 p.m. - All customer service functions (open during lunch)
2:30 - 4 p.m. - Closed for training.

Monday - Friday

7 a.m. - 4 p.m. All service.

NOTE: Customer Service functions include in & out processing, ID cards, DEERS, DD93s, SGLI, Vehicle Decals, Record Reviews, etc.

Base Billeting

Bldg. 5155, 456-3091/3092

Open 24 hours a day, seven days a week (reservations required).

Chaplain

Bldg. 6803, Room 239, 456-9179

Saturday & Sunday - 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Red River Dining Hall

Bldg. 4631

Breakfast - 5:30 - 6:30 a.m.

Lunch MS - 11 - 1

47FS - 11:45 WG - 11

MSS - 11:45 93 BS - 11:15

CES - noon SFS - 12:15

Shuttle service to the dining hall runs every 20 minutes starting at 11 a.m.. Pick-up points are Bldg. 6850 and Bldg. 6825 (northeast side of Bldg. 6803)

NOTE: You must show ID card, newcomer's letter or DD form 1172.

Family Readiness

Bldg. 4713

Saturday & Sunday - 8 - 11 a.m.

Military drivers license

Military drivers license issue is available on the main UTA in Bldg. 6825, Rm. 240. Issue hours are as follows:

Saturday & Sunday noon - 2 p.m.

Lodging

For information on official or space A lodging call 1-888-AF-LODGE. Once the automated system answers, key in the first three letters of the base you are trying to reach.

Military Pay

Main UTA hours of operation:

Sat. 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Sun. 1 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Military clothing issue

Wednesday 10 a.m. - 11:30

Main UTA Saturday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Holiday in Dixie Military Ball



PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. JESSICA D'AURIZIO
Col. Richard Schmidt, 917th Support Group commander, and wife Elisa, participate in the parade of commanders at the Holiday in Dixie Military Ball, April 1.

Manale wins first sergeant of the year

By Senior Airman Shannon Collins
Wing Public Affairs

Air Force Reserve Commander Maj. Gen. James Sherrard III recently presented a Barksdale reservist with the 10th Air Force First Sergeant of the Year award for 1999.

Senior Master Sgt. Bernard Manale, Det. 1, 307th REDHORSE, received the award March 24 at Robins Air Force Base, Ga., at Air Force Reserve Command Headquarters.

"It was a thrill to be told what a great job I was doing by so many generals," said Manale. "People kept shaking my hand and saying, 'You're doing a great job, keep up the good work.' It was a very motivating experience. It was very enriching and rewarding."

After receiving the good news by a congratulatory e-mail from Brig. Gen. Jack Ihle, 917th Wing commander, Manale still did not understand the full impact of an award like this.

"It didn't really dawn on me, the impact or the significance of what it was, until I actually went to the selection seminar at Robins," Manale said. "As I saw more and more of the level of people who were congratulating me, I began to become more and more excited about the whole process."

Manale feels programs like this are not being reinforced enough.

"We, as a management team, do not spend enough time recognizing our people for the significant contributions they do make in a significant way," said Manale. "This is certainly one avenue to make that happen that I think has been overlooked."

UTA Schedule

Main

May 6-7
June 3-4
July 8-9
August 5-6
Sept. 9-10
Oct. 14-15
Nov. 4-5
Dec. 2-3
Jan. 6-7, 2001
Feb. 3-4
Mar. 3-4
Apr. 7-8
May 5-6
June 2-3

Alternate

May 20-21
June 10-11
July 15-16
August 12-13
Sept. 16-17
Oct. 21-22
Nov. 18-19
Dec. 2-3
Jan. 20-21, 2001
Feb. 10-11
Mar. 17-18
Apr. 21-22
May 19-20
June 23-24

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